

Message Text

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67

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INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 5489

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT EG

SUBJECT: SADAT REVOLUTION DAY SPEECH

SUMMARY: JULY 23 REVOLUTION DAY CELEBRATIONS PAID PRO FORMA
TRIBUTE TO NASSER, BUT LEFT NO DOUBT THAT SADAT IS NOW "THE BOSS".
MOST SIGNIFICANT POINTS IN PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS WERE SOFT PEDALING
OF "MISUNDERSTANDING" WITH USSR, BRIEF DEROGATORY COMMENTS ABOUT
NON-BROTHERLY ALLEGATIONS OF UNNAMED ARAB LEADERS, AND FURTHER
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AMBIGUITIES ABOUT WHO REPRESENTS THE PALESTINIANS. SADAT SAID

FIRMLY THAT ARAB RANKS MUST BE CLOSED, ADMITTED PAINFUL NATURE OF CERTAIN MEMORIES (I.E., JORDAN 1970) BUT INSISTED THAT HUSAIN HAS AGREED TO DROP RESERVATIONS TO ALGIERS RESOLUTION. END SUMMARY.

1. JULY 23 CELEBRATIONS WERE REMARKABLE FOR LACK OF EMPHASIS ON REVOLUTIONARY ROLE OF NASSER AND FREE OFFICER MOVEMENT. THERE WAS NO CEREMONY AT NASSER'S TOMB, CAIRO NEWSPAPERS DID NOT REPORT ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS OF NASSER'S FAMILY AT ANY FUNCTION, AND ONLY DEP PM MAMDUL SALIM WAS NOTED BY PRESS AS HAVING SENT CONGRATULATORY CABLE TO NASSER'S WIDOW. ALTHOUGH GOE HAD PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED 11 FREE OFFICERS WOULD ATTEND SADAT'S SPEECH, 17 WERE REPORTEDLY PRESENT. BUT OF THE 17 ONLY NAME WIDELY KNOWN WAS THAT OF MUSTAFA MURAD. CONSPICUOUS BY THEIR ABSENCE WERE SUCH FORMER LEADING LIGHTS AS ABD AL-LATIF BAGHDADI, AND KAMAL AND ZAKARIYA MUHIYEDDIN. FURTHER, IN HIS ADDRESS, SADAT FOCUSED AS MUCH ON "CORRECTIVE MOVEMENT" AS ON PERSONAL TRAIL BLASING ROLE OF NASSER HIMSELF: DESPITE ITS GREATNESS, "OUT REVOLUTIONARY EXPERIENCE IS NOT ABOVE CRITICISMS." EMBASSY CAIRO CAN ONLY INTERPRET THIS REVISIONIST HAGIOGRAPHY AS CLEAR SIGNAL FROM THE TOP THAT SADAT IS NOW THE "RAIS" AND THAT HE, AS AN ORIGINAL RCC MEMBER AND CONFIDANT OF NASSER, HAS REVOLUTIONARY CREDENTIALS TOTALLY QUALIFYING HIM AS "THE" INTERPRETER OF THE REVOLUTION.

2. CENTERPIECE OF REVOLUTION DAY CELEBRATIONS WAS, AS USUAL, PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS TO JOINT MEETING OF AUS CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND PEOPLES ASSEMBLY. CONSIDERABLE SECTION OF SPEECH WAS GIVEN OVER TO WELL-KNOWN GOE ANALYSIS OF OCTOBER WAR: WORLD DID NOT ALLTW US TO DEFEAT ISRAEL COMPLETELY...WE WANT STABILITY, PEACE, RECONSTRUCTION...WE ARE READY TO ENTER DIALOGUE WITH ANY TRUE OR POSSIBLE FRIEND...IN THE INTERIM THE FIGHT CONTINUES. ISRAELI OCCUPATION CONTINUES TO DESECRATE MANY ARAB LANDS". COMBAT ABILITY SHOULD BE ENHANCED, SINCE FIGHTING AGAIN IS INEVITABLE "UNLESS ROAD TO PEACE IS REALLY OPENED AND ALL ARAB RIGHTS RESTORED WITHIN ACCEPTABLE PERIOD".

3. HIGHLIGHTS OF SPEECHFOLLOW:

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A. GOE/USSR RELATIONS. SADAT TOUCHED ON EXPULSION OF SOVIET EXPERTS SAYING HE TOOK DECISION WHEN YOUNG EDUCATED GENERATION BECAME CAPABLE OF MASTERING THE MOST MODERN AND MOST COMPLICATED WEAPONS. "AS WAS CASE WITH EVERY IMPORTANT DECISION OF THIS TYPE", EXPULSION WAS MISINTERPRETED, "PARTICULARLY BY USSR",

IF IT HAS BEEN "FINAL RENUNCIATION OF BATTLE AND A DEAL WITH

USG". OPPOSITE WAS TRUE. ISRAEL TRIED TO MAKE CONFRONTATION WITH EGYPT INTO USG/USSR CONFRONTATION IN ORDER TO FREEZE SITUATION. WE WANTED REGIONAL CONFRONTATION GIVING US FREEDOM OF ACTION. LATER IN SPEECH SADAT SAID "WE DO NOT WANT MISUNDERSTANDING WITH USSR TO CONTINUE. WE ARE EAGER TO REMOVE MISUNDERSTANDING...WE BELIEVE SOVIETS IN FUTURE WILL SEE THAT SOME OF THEIR INTEHPRETATIONS OF OUR POLIMY WERE INCORRECT."

COMMENT: SADAT'S REMARKS ON USSR IN THIS MAJOR SPEECH WERE EAGERLY AWAITED HERE, AND THERE HAD BEEN SOME SPECULATION THAT HE WOULD REACT STRONGLY TO CANCELLATION FAHMI'S VISIT. SADAT APPEARS TO HAVE DECIDED, HOWEVER, THAT CONCILIATION IS BETTER PART OF VALOR AND AT LEAST APPEARANCEOF NON-ALIGNMENT IS BETTER THAN PUBLICLY PUTTING ALL EGGS IN AMERICAN BASKET. END COMMENT.

B. ARAB SOLIDARITY. WE REGRET THAT NEW TALKS OF "SOME OF OUR BROTHERS IN ARABISM" IS "TO DEFAME OUR POLICY, WHILE REMINDING US OF THEIR SHARE IN THE BATTLE". IT IS IMMORAL AND NON-NATIONALISTIC TO BRAG ABOUT OFFERING HELP. EGYPT MUST WORK TO CLOSE ARAB RANKS, ESPECIALLY BY COORDINATING POSITIONS FOR GENEVA. "WE MUST ALSO CONSIDER LEGANON'S POSSIBLE ATTENDANCE AT THE CONFERENCE."

COMMENT: LIBYA IS CLEARLY THE CULPRIT, ALTHOUGH IRAQI PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST EGYPT SEEMS ALSO TO BE AN IMPLICIT TARGET OF SADAT'S REMARKS. END COMMENT.

C. PALESTINE. "THORNIEST, MOST SENSITIVE PROBLEMON ROAD TO ARAB UNITY IS GOJ-PLO RELATIONSHIP. GOE FACES UP TO THIS ISSUE, DESPITE SLINGS AND ARROWS OF "THOSE WHO PREFER TO BE BYSTANDERS" CONFIDENTIAL

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(READ LIBYA) OR WHO WANT TO PICK ROSES WITHOUT BEING PRICKED BY THORNS. "HIGHER ARAB INTEREST DEMANDS COORDINATION...BETWEEN CONFRONTATION COUNTRIES, INCLUDING JORDAN". OTHERWISE, BATTLE WILL BE LOST AND ARAB CIVIL WAR WILL ENSUE. RECENT SADAT/HUSSAIN TALKS CONSITITUED "IMPORTANT STAGE". GOJ DROPPED "ALL RESERVATIONS" RE STATUS OF PLO, ACCEPTING GOE REASONING THAT WEST ANK IS "TRUST" UNTIL PALESTINIANS CAN EXERCISE SELF-DETERMINATION. GOJ RECOGNIZES PLO RIGHT TO ATTEND INDEPEN-DENTLY. ONLY PALESTINIANS CAN REGULATE PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS; EGYPT SEEKS REAPPROACHMENT BETWEEN DIVERGENT ATTITUDES. "THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE TO COORDINATION. DIVISION WOULD PERMIT ISRAEL TO EVADE GENEVA CONFERENCE. HIGHER NATIONAL AND PALESTINIAN INTERESTS MUST TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER PAINFUL MEMORIES.

COMMENT: DESPITE FEDAYEEN OUTCRY FROM BEIRUT, SADAT SEEMS TO

BE STICKING TO HIS AMBIGUITIES; NAMELY THAT GOJ AND GOE SUPPORT
ALGIERS RESOLUTION EVEN THOUGH COMMUNIQUE SAYS HUSAIN REPRESENTS
HKJ "RESIDENTS". WHETHER BEING ALL THINGS TO ALL MEN WILL BACKFIRE
STILL REMAINS TO BE SEEN, SINCE GOJ SEEMS RELATIVELY SATISFIED
(AMMAN 4211) AND PLO EXCOMM, THOUGH CLEARLY FURIOUS, HAS NOT
SPECIFICALLY REJECTED HUSAIN/SADAT COMMUNIQUE (BEIRUT 8494).;
SADAT'S WILLINGNESS TO REITERATE LUDICROUSLY CONTRIDICTORY
STATEMENTS ABOUT WHO REPRESENTS WHAT PALESTINIANS APPARENTLY
INDICATES THAT, FOR TIME BEING AT LEAST, HE WILL TELL PLO LEADERS
THAT HE HAS ACHIEVED CONCESSIONS FOR THEM FOR WHICH THEY SHOULD BE
GRATEFUL, AND THAT HE IS NOT INTIMIDATED BY FUROR IN BEIRUT.
SADAT/ARAFAT TALKS WILLPROBABLY BE CLINCHER, WITH GOE FUTURE
POLICY HINGING ON WHETHER ARAFAT CAN CONVINCE GOE THAT COMMUNIQUE
HAS HOPELESSLY UNDERCUT MODERATE PLO LEADERS. END COMMENT.
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